



The

# Chronicle

20th  
anniversary  
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Since 1981

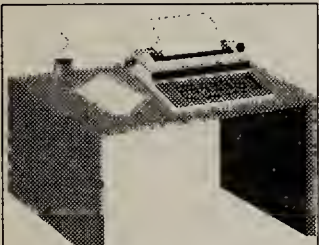
Monday, December 3, 2001

chronicle@axp.calumet.purdue.edu

www.PUCchronicle.com

## In this week's issue

Advisor / instructor clarifies the job that these faculty members should do



Opinion, Page 4

"Harry Potter" needs a bit more magic to meet expectations of Potter-philies.



Entertainment, Page 8

New student organization provides stage for political discussion.



News, Page 3

Brad Pitt and Robert Redford get together in their latest flick to play "Spy Games."



Entertainment, Page 9

Read about the Sexson and Reash duo that continues to take PUC by storm.



Sports, Page 8

## Funding cuts: Possible state funding cuts spur discussion

SARAH LISON  
News Writer

The campus community met Nov. 9 for a town hall discussion to examine the PUC budget and contingency plans responding to the possibility of a cut in state appropriations for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Because state appropriations account for 53% of the PUC budget, any cut will require significant reallocation of funds from either cash savings or the university's base budget. State funding that has been withheld thus far includes a \$1.56 million technology appropriation and a \$1.48 million repair and rehabilitation appropriation used to maintain campus buildings. Also, the appropriation disbursement for June 2003 will be deferred. Gary Newsom, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services said there is a possibility that PUC will receive the deferred disbursement in July 2003 and will cover the shortfall using contingency reserves.

The Senior Leadership Team, consisting of Cohen, the Vice-Chancellors, and J. Allen, executive assistant to the Chancellor, has proposed two plans to reallocate money into a contingency reserve in an effort to backfill funding for programs affected by the possible loss of appropriations and to fund strategic initiatives. The team has developed a critical mission targeting tuition revenues, which account for 44% of the operating budget, by increasing enrollment to about 190K billable hours. Contingency Plan A calls for a total of \$1.25 million in cash savings from various sources to be moved into a contingency reserve in December of both 2001 and 2002. Half of the cash will come from central reserves; the other half of the sources will be identified by November 30. Contingency Plan B requires some more challenging decisions, such as the evaluation and possible elimination of institutional activities that fail to contribute to the targeted tuition revenues; this plan will real-

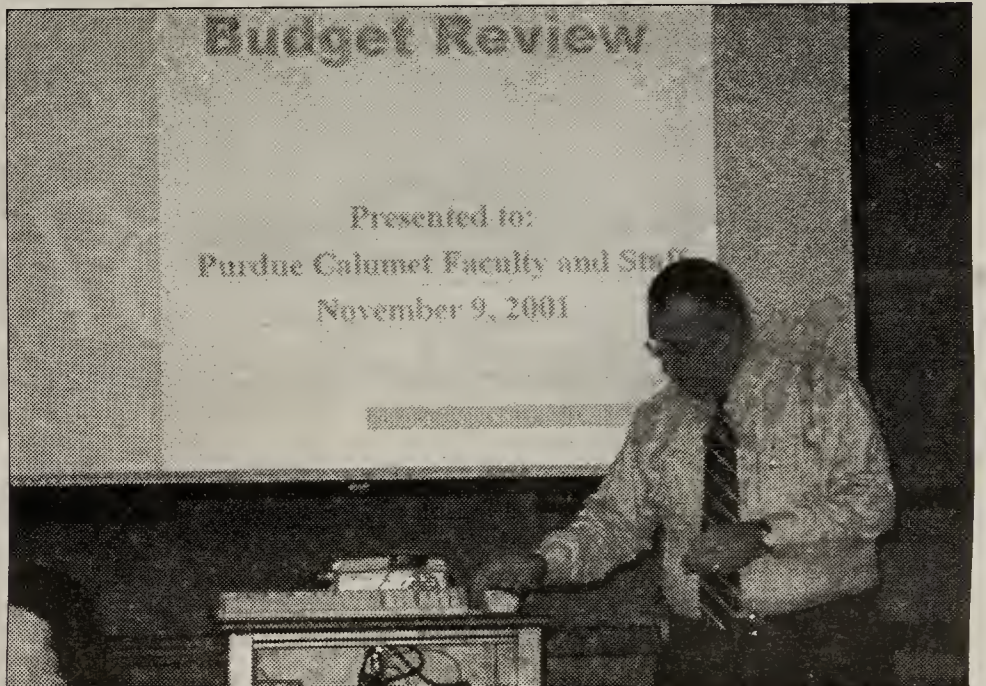


Photo by Lorrell D. Kilpatrick

Gary Newsom, vice chancellor of administrative services, presents the budget review to students, faculty and staff at PUC's first 'Town Hall' meeting.

locate \$2.5 million into a contingency reserve from the base budget by March 2003.

The tuition increase of \$12 per billable hour approved for next semester will not be used to cover a possible shortfall in state funding; instead, it will contribute to the funding of the strategic plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on November 5. If the state cuts appropriations, the Senior Leadership Team estimates that PUC's base budget will need to be increased by \$10.35 million to support strategic initiatives. Nevertheless, Newsom stated, "It depends on the magnitude of the [possible cut, but there will definitely have to be

some reordering or priorities," in regards to the strategic plan.

If the state does not cut appropriations, any identified funds will be put toward strategic initiatives. Joyce Hestermann, a junior majoring in sociology, stated that she attended the town hall discussion because she was interested in where her tuition dollars go and is concerned about what programs will be affected if funds are cut.

"PUC's future is to remain a four year college," Chancellor Howard Cohen stated, "community colleges are growing and we are planning and adjusting to that growth."

## Strategic plan waits on funds

JOCELYN GALLEGOS  
News Writer

PUC will implement its Strategic Plan as soon as there are funds available to support programs and strategies that will be used to meet four goals; chiefly goals one and two.

Purdue President Martin Jischke said PUC should invest \$10.3 million on this plan in the next five years. Rebecca Stankowski, co-chair of the strategic planning task force said the five-year Strategic Plan will be carried out, but the state budget cuts will make the implementation process more challenging.

"We are not getting any additional money from the state," Stankowski said.

Stankowski said there was an announcement that all incoming students will be assessed \$16 to fund the plan. She said the \$16 fee would only affect new students. She said the university

would also acquire additional funds from donations and fundraisers.

The plan, which was approved Nov. 2 by the Purdue Board of Trustees, will meet goals one and two first because they include PUC's top priorities that deal with student, staff, and faculty success and development.

Stankowski said the first goal deals with improving students' success. She said students would achieve success through a Student Success Center, which will provide students with better advising, research opportunities, discipline-based freshmen courses, and student cohorts. She said student cohorts would be a grouping of incoming students attending school and graduating together.

She said the university will be successful when the freshmen retention rate increases from 62

See Funds, Page 5

## Book drive met with smiles

AMY PILARCZYK  
News Writer

The fifth annual holiday book drive is going on now until Dec. 14. The drive offers kids a chance to receive and read books that they may not get a chance to read.

Student Support Services Counselor and Coordinator of 21st Century Scholars Kimberly Trajkovski, coordinated the book drive. Trajkovski has been involved with the drive for the past 3 years. The drive, which started Nov. 19, offers children around the area a chance to receive a Christmas present of a book. The books will then be delivered to the children Dec. 17, just in time for Christmas. "The book drive gives the children something they will have and remember," Trajkovski said. "Toys are nice but they will grow old of them."

The Administrative and Profession Staff Advisory Committee is sponsoring the book drive. APSAC is an advisory committee for the staff that believes in community partnership. APSAC came up with the idea of the book drive because the members wanted to have a program that would relate to the uni-

"This is a hard year for people to donate with many giving funds to groups like the Red Cross. But I hope people can spend money to put a book in a child's hand."

Eric Wignall,  
chair of ASPAC

versity and the community surrounding PUC. This is due to the fact that most students and faculty commute from all areas around the campus. They thought reading was a great way to do it.

ASPAC has recently helped with the "We Will Not Forget September 11, 2001" and will also work with the Clerical Service Staff Advisory Committee for an end of the year picnic.

In PUC's bookstore there is a table with numerous children's books located on it. There are titles of books like "The Rainbow Fish" and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" There is also a snowman with

See Drive, Page 5



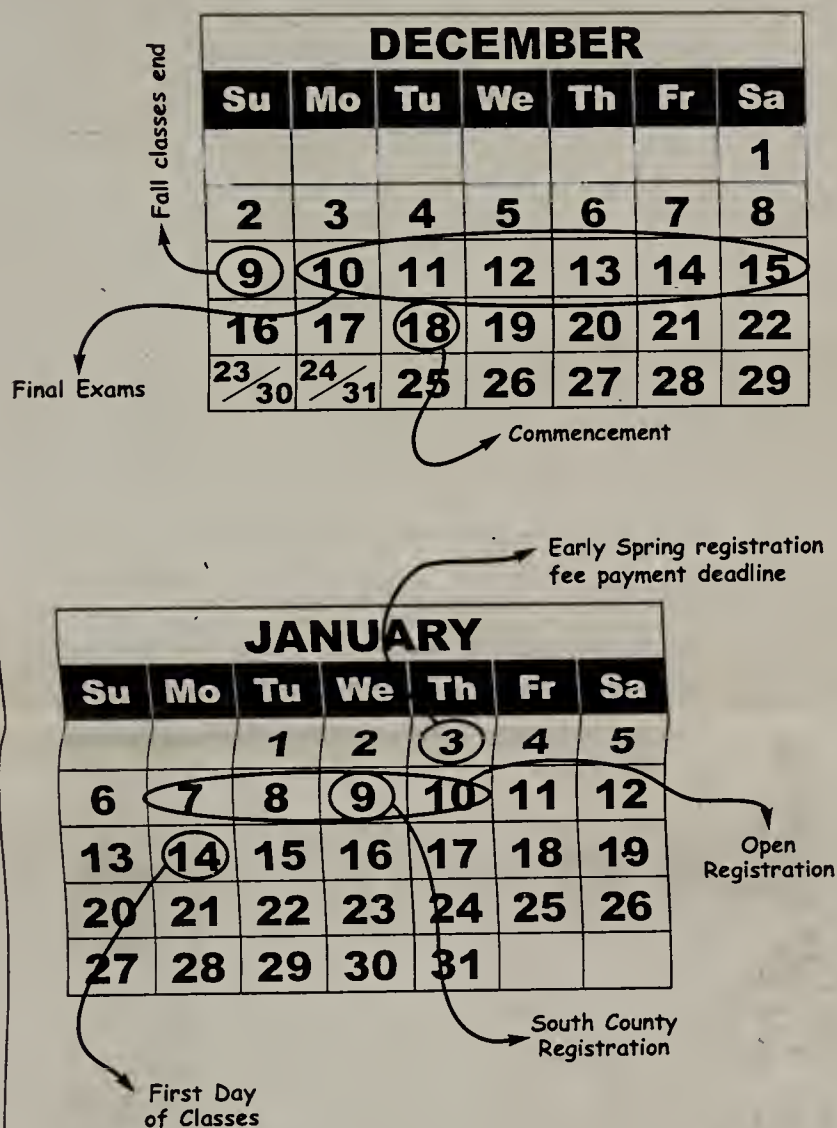
## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

# You have until Friday (12/7)...

...to take advantage of Early Registration for next semester.

To avoid the hassles of waiting in lines during Open Registration in January, while maximizing your chances of getting the classes you want next semester, take advantage of the Early Registration period, which continues through Friday.

Come early next January, you'll be glad you did!



## Fast approaching...other key dates:

- \* 12/9 Fall semester classes end
- \* 12/10-15 Final exams
- \* 12/18 Fall Commencement @ Radisson Star Theatre, Merrillville
- \* 1/3 Last day to pay Spring 2001 Semester Early Registration fees
- \* 1/7-10 Open Registration—Spring 2001 Semester
- \* 1/9 South County Registration for Spring 2001 Semester at Georgia Street Learning Center, Merrillville (3-7 pm)
- \* 1/14 Spring 2002 Semester classes begin

# What's goin' on?

## A look around campus

### Theatre 138/238 class to perform 'It's a Wonderful Life'

Students in Theatre 138/238 at Purdue University Calumet will perform "It's A Wonderful Life," based on the Frank Capra classic film, Friday, December 14 at 10 a.m. in the TV lounge of the Student Faculty Library Center at the University. All students, faculty, staff and community members are invited to attend. Admission is free of charge. This two-act play done by more than 20 actors will last approximately an hour and a half, including intermission, and is a great way to end the semester and kick off the holiday season.

### SGA seeks new members

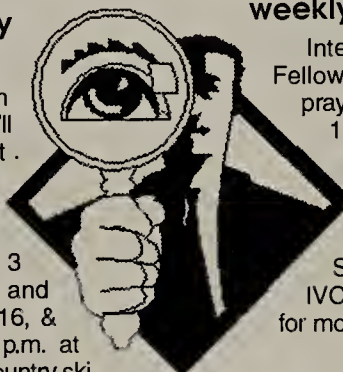
The Student Government Association is looking for new senators. For more information e-mail roc\_vg@yahoo.com or call (219) 989-2394.

### SHPE seeks new members

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers is looking for new members to join the organization. This non-for-profit organization devotes its time to developing professionalism and community service. For more information contact Ibrahim Issa at (219) 689-6623 or e-mail issa45@home.com.

### Lake County Parks offers cross country ski lessons for free

If you can walk, you can cross country ski and we'll teach you - for FREE - at the Lake County Parks. Informal lessons will be held Saturday, January 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Lemon Lake and Saturday, February 2, 9, 16, & 23 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Stoney Run when cross-country ski rentals are open. If you do not own skis, we have adult and child sized equipment available for rent. Times vary and lessons are dependent upon favorable weather and snow conditions. Please call before coming out to the park. Lemon Lake's number is 663-7627 and Stoney Run's number is (219) 996-6500. There is no pre-registration and no fee for this program. Bring your own equipment or rent ours. The rental fee is \$5 for the first two hours and \$1.50 for each additional hour. Join park staff anytime during the informal cross-country ski instructions for about 15 minutes of basic training. For more information, call 769-PARK.



### IVCF provides new times for weekly prayer meetings

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will hold half hour prayer meetings Mondays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Thursdays at 1 p.m. in SFLC-344C. Send e-mail to IVCF@xpc.calumet.purdue.edu for more information.

### Cruise is offered for credits

The Department of Behavior Sciences offers a cruise to the Bahamas for credits this May. The cruise cost \$1,150 to \$1,195 for a four-day cruise and students gain hands-on experience with lectures and tours on board and a class component. For more information contact Geralyn Farley at 989-2714.

### Breast cancer support group to meet at Community Hospital

A national breast cancer support organization called Y-Me provides information, counseling, programs and support. The Northwest Indiana Group will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 8 in the Community Hospital Cafeteria Conference Room, 901 MacArthur Blvd., Munster. This month's topic will be "Family Traditions for the Holidays" featuring a holiday party, cookie exchange and an optional \$5 grab bag gift. For more information, call Dorothy Gillespie, R.N., at (219) 838-6111. Check out our website at for information on other health-related programs.

### The PUC Gymnastics presents the Icicle Invitational 2001

A gymnastics meet including Indiana University (Bloomington), Eastern Michigan University, University of Minnesota and your home team, Purdue Calumet. The meet will take place Saturday, December 1, 2001 at 2:30 p.m. at the Horizon Gymnastics Center, 1254 Horse Prairie Ave., Valparaiso. For more information call Jeffrin at (219) 242-3242 or Horizon Gymnastics Center at (219) 477-6542. Come out to support your home team!

## Say what?

*'Most people get a fair amount of fun out of their lives, but on a balance life is suffering, and only the very young or the very foolish imagine otherwise.'*

-George Orwell  
1903-1950

# The Chronicle

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# Area residents receive 'distinguished' awards

On Nov. 29, the Purdue Alumni Association-Calumet presented the 2001 "Distinguished Service Award" at The Center. During the ceremony, three other awards were presented to community business personalities, alumni and current graduate and undergraduate students at PUC.

Winner of the 2001 "Distinguished Service Award" was PUC professor emeritus of information systems and computer programming, John Maniotes of Munster. Maniotes served on PUC's faculty since 1963 until his retirement last May. He established the first computer technology program at PUC and served as department head for the ISCP department from 1963 to 1975. He established the Sam and John Maniotes Scholarship Fund for

students majoring in ISCP and has authored 13 computer text books.

Another award presented that night was the "Distinguished Corporate/Community Service Award" to Hammond businessman Donald E. Swibes, president of Swico Inc., a Hammond based firm since 1989. Swico manufactures representatives and distributors of process control and filtration equipment to pharmaceutical and power generation industries. He participated in the first class offered by PUC's Entrepreneurship Center and became the founding president of the Entrepreneurship Club, which has grown to become a useful, local business asset. Swibes shares his expertise about entrepreneurship and marketing in classes within the school of management.

The "Outstanding Alumni Award" went to Ronald L. Hunter, president and CEO of Superior Engineering. Hunter hails from Dyer and received a master's degree in engineering from PUC in 1973. In 1993 Hunter chaired a \$250,000 alumni drive within PUC's "Strengthening the Partnership" campaign, a \$5 million, five-year campaign to enhance university initiatives beyond the support of public and tuition dollars.

The "Outstanding Student Award" was presented to two students, the first being Wes Bushby of Highland. Bushby was named the outstanding senior in mechanical engineering last spring semester and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology and is involved

in numerous organizations. He has served as a mentor for Campagna Academy (formerly Hoosier Boy's Town), a volunteer escort for LCAR and a volunteer for the Red Cross blood drive.

The second student who received the "Outstanding Student Award" is Krista Longtin of Hammond. Longtin is a graduate student in the communication and creative arts department and a graduate instructor in communication at Purdue West Lafayette. She also serves as a graduate assistant in the Center for Career and Leadership Development. As an undergraduate, Longtin graduated with honors and was chosen as a Rinker scholar to participate in study abroad at Oxford University.

*They always come when they are called. They are brave, righteous and courageous with talent that cannot be paralleled. Part of an elite sect, you too can be a Chronicle copy editor. 989-2547*

## PSA provides forum for discussion of current issues

■ Political Science Association allows for members to bring understanding to system and change

Students looking for a place to talk about political issues now have a channel to do so and the Political Science Association provides it.

The PSA was formed two months ago out of a lack of any such organization on campus. Club president Nick Orange said, "We wanted to provide a place for political science majors to come together." He went on to say that the tragic events of Sept. 11 accelerated

the process of creating a forum for those interested in political issues.

The mission of the PSA is to provide a forum for the open discussion of contemporary political issues. This is accomplished mainly through roundtable discussions at weekly meetings. During these meetings, all are welcome to discuss controversial issues and to vent their viewpoints, no matter what they are.

John Flores, a senior majoring in history and a vice president in the PSA said, "I enjoy discussing sociopolitical issues on a critical level."

The organization is open to all students on campus, not just political science majors. Orange said that wide ranges of world topics are discussed, not just those directly relating to politics.

Flores said, "I feel that the PSA

provides an intellectual forum in which students can engage each other by debating and sharing their viewpoints on a variety of issues."

Miranda Brakely, vice president of event programming in the PSA said that she values the group because it gives her further insight into what she talks about in her classes and because it lets her meet others on campus who have the same interests as herself.

So far the response has been good. Orange reports that there currently 35 members in the PSA.

Those interested in joining can e-mail the organization at or attend any of the meetings held on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in SFLC 321. The PSA will also sponsor a mixer on Dec 5 at 5 p.m. in SFLC 321.

- The Chronicle Staff Report

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## The Chronicle

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Fall 2001

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## Make sure that the 'town' knows about meetings

Two weeks ago, a town hall meeting was held in The Center at PUC. This symposium was held to address issues pertaining to the Strategic Planning Board, campus funds and budgets, faculty travel problems, the statewide hiring freeze and other related aspects of campus life. After past administrations had gotten a bad rap for their lack of involvement with students, this town hall meeting came at just about the right time.

Purdue University President Martin Jishke and Chancellor Howard Cohen have proven their worth as administrators of this school: Jishke is known for traveling to all campuses of Purdue to meet and greet the school's faculty and students and Cohen knows a good number of PUC's students by their first names. The mere fact that this meet and greet was held on the campus, and was presumably open to the public, means that this new administration means to do well by its employees and students. They are obviously looking out for our best interests.

The problem that occurred when this meeting began was that only a handful of students arrived to listen to the issues and addresses at hand. A "town hall" meeting of this importance needed to be announced much more in advance. Because it is for the benefit of those who pay their hard-earned dollars or work like mad to earn scholarships to attend this school, it would be to their benefit to get involved in where their money is going, to ask questions and to receive satisfactory answers. Students need to be aware of opportunities like these. They need to be assured that their input is not only welcomed, but also encouraged. At no time before this meeting were their any flyers posted in the student lobbies. No mass e-mails were sent out on the student e-mail accounts. There seemed to be an almost subversive denial of the student's existence in these matters.

Hopefully, this was not an intended action on the behalf of the administration. Perhaps its thought was that no student would waste a Friday morning to listen to a bunch of suits ramble on about money allocation, travel expenditures or lack of qualified instructors. If this was the case the administration is dead wrong.

Students do care about these issues. They need to be aware of where their tuition money is headed in the future. They need to know if it is worth signing up for a class if there is the risk of no one ultimately teaching it. They need to feel that their input is just as important of that of a faculty member or of the administration. After all, a staff member could always get another job, but a student is putting their entire college education on the line if he or she cannot be heard by those who are helping to shape the educational system.

### The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in the commentaries and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Chronicle* or Purdue University Calumet. *The Chronicle* is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet.

*The Chronicle* welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the author's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification.

All materials submitted to *The Chronicle* become the property of *The Chronicle*. All material must be saved on a 3.5" DOS format disk. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Copy deadline is noon the Monday before publication.

## The People Speak

**Question of the Week:** Has the threat of future terrorist attacks altered your holiday plans in any way?



**Courtney Godley**

*freshman, political science*

"No, I am going to New Orleans but we were driving anyway."



**Gestyle Jones**

*sophomore, EET*

"No it has not."



**Harold Jones**

*junior, education*

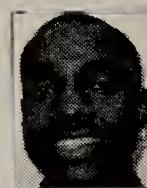
"No it has not altered my ego."



**Terrance Hamilton**

*junior, business management*

"I am on alert but it has not affected any of my plans."



**K-Caesar Thompson**

*sophomore, communication*

"I shall not be moved."



**Terri Wilson**

*sophomore, physical therapy*

"No it has not altered any of my travel plans."

## Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

I want to respond to your previous editorial concerning professional advising. There are several misconceptions in your editorial that need clarification.

First, professional advising never has been a job for individuals to merely sign course request cards. If that were the case, my colleagues and I would have the easiest job in the world. Academic advising includes mentoring students in their majors as well as providing other academic assistance. Most professional advisors attend professional training seminars sponsored through groups such as the National Association for Academic Advising. As well, many also attend and make presentations at professional conferences like the National Association for Developmental Education. Unfortunately, nor the inclination to receive such training.

Many of us also teach courses. In University Division, we teach sections of GNS 103 and EDPS 103 regularly. Some of us, like myself, teach courses in our field of study. I regularly teach POL 101 each semester. I see this as an advantage because it allows me to meet other students in our university and I think it lends credence to our qualifications as educators.

Professional advisors are usually well credentialed to advise students for coursework. I know that the advisor in the Communication Department has a master's degree in communication. The advisor in History and Political Science has a master's degree in History. The advisor in Behavioral Sciences has a master's degree in Psychology. I contend that given this fact, professional advisors generally can help students choose appropriate courses successfully.

Additionally, having a professional advising staff in each department frees up faculty to teach making it less necessary to hire graduate aides or outside instructors to teach courses. Thus, students are guaranteed someone in the classroom who is highly trained in his or her field of study. Having a professional advising staff also means that students have access to an advisor all year - including the summer months. When faculty were doing advising, many of them were not available to students in the summer or in between semesters when they were not teaching.

Lastly, the fact that many departments are hiring professional advisors does not preclude faculty from mentoring students. Are not faculty available to stu-

dents during their office hours? Can't students visit and seek faculty guidance? I would think many faculty would welcome students into their offices whether or not they hold an official title of "advisor."

I welcome anyone to visit our office in the Developmental Studies Program.

I would be happy to show you the kind of work we do as advisors and teachers other than the signing of course request cards.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Lee Rademacher**  
*Academic Advisor / Instructor*  
*Developmental Studies*

Dear Editor:

Ever since my childhood I have admired the firefighter. When my grandmother took me to my first fire station, I was almost overwhelmed by the splendor of the bright fire pole.

As time went on, I observed the sense of decency, the compassion and the unrelenting courage of these men and women. Some go in and fewer come of.

But equally impressive is the profound sense of loyalty that these men show to one another.

The fire station is a little community and whenever one firefighter is injured or killed, his fellows respond with profound caring and sympathy. All firefighters are tightly bonded brothers. The Mayor of New York (for whom I have the greatest admiration) downsized the number of firefighters at Ground Zero. The result was predictable.

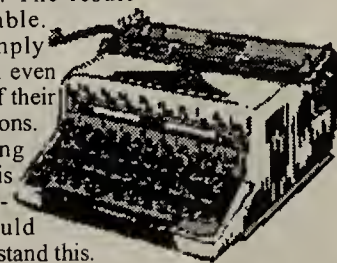
The men simply wanted to find even the remnants of their fallen companions.

The bonding of firefighters is truly remarkable. We should all try to understand this.

I want to express my extreme gratitude for these men.

Sincerely,

**Charles B. Tinkham**  
*Professor Emeritus of English*



The Dec. 10 issue of *The Chronicle* will be the last of the Fall semester. This is your final opportunity to write in with your thoughts, complaints, contemplations and outrages. To do so, either e-mail is at [chronicle@axp.calumet.purdue.edu](mailto:chronicle@axp.calumet.purdue.edu) or snail-mail us at:

2200 169th St.  
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c/o *The Chronicle* 344-H



## Funds

Continued from page 1

percent to 72 percent, and the six-year graduation rate increases from 22 percent to 32 percent.

"We have aspirations for the graduation rate to increase to 40 percent, but that would take more than five years," Stankowski said.

She said other strategies include an increase in student wages and scholarship money and residential housing.

The residential housing would be located on land between the Hammond Armory and the Total Fitness Center. She said it would be open to all students including international students.

"The housing would create a student culture we don't have right now on campus," Stankowski said.

Stankowski said the university will be successful if at least 10 percent of the student body lives in the residential housing. She said the university will also be successful if work-study funds and scholarship money increase by 50 percent.

The first goal stated in the Strategic Plan has the largest impact on students, Nicholas Orange, vice president of the student body said.

"Through aggressive advising the university will show students it cares about them and cares about their success," Orange said.

Stankowski explained that the second goal deals with faculty and staff development. She said in order to accomplish this

the university will establish a Center for Professional Development. Through this center faculty and staff will receive teaching instruction to become better teachers.

She said the university also plans to increase full-time instruction by paying higher, more competitive salaries. She said the university will be successful when 50 percent of faculty and staff participate in center programs and full-time instruction increases.

Stankowski said the third goal allows students to acquire more experience working with the Web, and the fourth goal deals with PUC building partnerships with educational, cultural and business institutions.

"We can offer our expertise to them and in exchange they could offer our students internships," Stankowski said.

Stankowski said President Jischke's plan is to take each Purdue University campus to the next level of excellence. She said for that reason each campus formed a strategic planning committee.

Eric Wignall, member of the strategic planning task force, said PUC's team designed the plan and now each department is in charge of responding to the plan.

"The plan says look there's a mountain. It's up to the different departments and schools to climb the mountain," Wignall said.

Stankowski said once the whole plan is implemented PUC would reach the next level of excellence.

## Go ahead, make my day

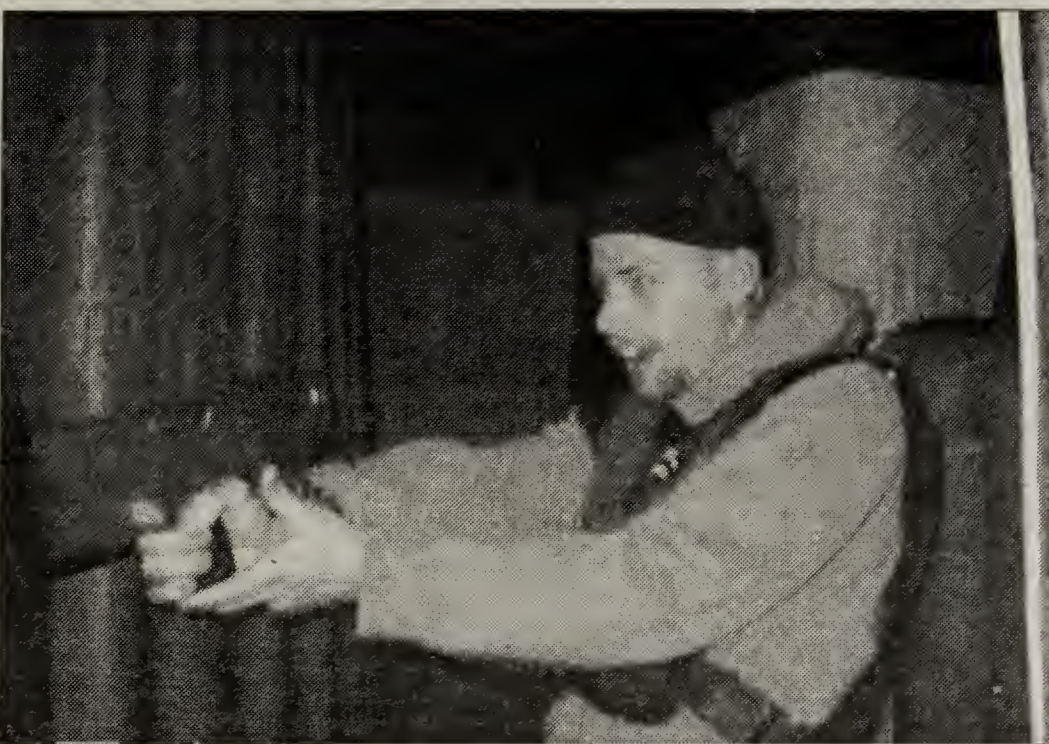


Photo by Rocio Cortez

Josh Holt, classification and major focuses on his target during laser tag on Nov. 29. The laser tag event was sponsored by the Student Programming Board and UPS.

## Drive

Continued from page 1

nametags that includes the numerous children's names and ages. A student or faculty member purchases a book for a child whose name is on the nametag. It is like the giving tree in the mall, except with books to give instead of toys. The children themselves made the little nametags.

Students have been getting into the idea of sharing a book with the children. "I think that this is a really

good idea for giving back to the kids around our communities," Melissa Sandberg a freshman majoring in elementary education said.

The purchased books will go to children in the Gary Area Headstart program. There are between 4000 and 5000 children in this program. There are nearly 200 names of children who need the books. In the past, the drive has given books to Woodland in Hammond, East Chicago Headstart and Hammond

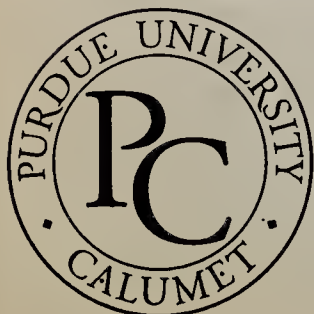
Headstart.

Trajkovski said that students are needed to help deliver the books, but the most important thing is to purchase them. Eric Wignall, chair of ASPAC, thinks it might be difficult for people to donate books.

"This is a hard year for people to donate with many giving funds to groups like the Red Cross," Wignall said. "But I hope people can spend money to put a book in a child's hand."

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OLS 454

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OLS 376 OLS 384\* OLS 454  
OLS 474 OLS 477\*

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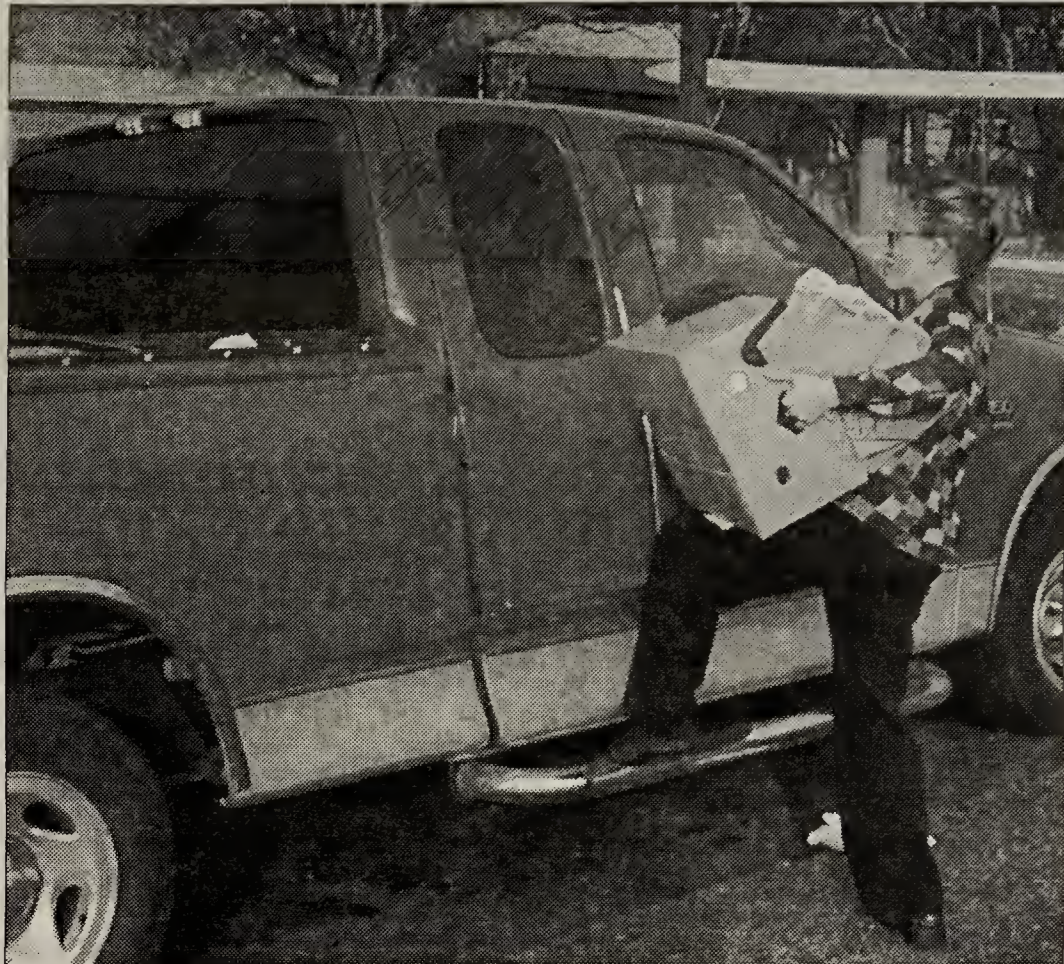
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Photos by Lorrell D. Kilpatrick

Genevieve VanSteege, president of SWE, and other members carry boxes of clothing to their caravan of vehicles for their annual holiday clothes drive. This year all proceeds of the drive went to the Gary Ark Shelter for women and children. The collection for the clothing drive took place on Nov. 18.

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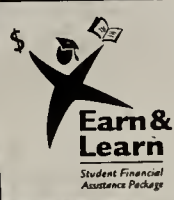
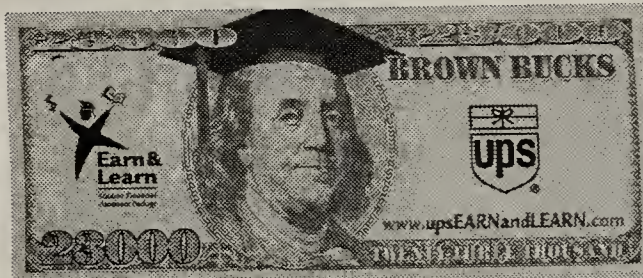
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# There's something about Harry

Film charms with visual delights, but needs more magic in the end

**JAMES E. LACZKOWSKI**  
Entertainment Editor

"Lighten up!" "Picky, picky."  
"You damn critics!"

I'm trying to think about what I'll hear after this review is published. I've heard it before and there's no doubt that Potter-files will hunt me down and chastise me for finding flaws in the imaginative, innovative, and fun tale of a young boy who discovers he's a wizard.

But low and behold, I am too a Potter freak. Having delved into the novels a bit late, but nonetheless, they still held me captive in their wit and charm.

Pretend you are conjuring up a recipe for a special type of sauce. You know when you finally get to that point in which you think you're just about done, and then comes the actual taste test? There are two words that are often muttered when attempting to capture a particular taste, or a zest to wow the dinner guest. Can you take a stab at what those two words are? "Something's missing." That's how I feel about the film version of "Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone."

Is it mediocre? Hardly. But does it fully capture what I envisioned when I read the first installment in one night? Not quite. Still, during the final act of Potter's creepy descent to uncover the mystery of the stone, I couldn't help but feel dissatisfied and visually exhausted by the overabundance of effects. Sure, special effects are equipped to elevate the story and serve as a classy way to give a particular sequence something magical. But keep in mind, the classics I grew up with (everything from "ET," "Willy Wonka," "The Goonies,") were actually quite limited in terms of technological stride. They depended less on such gimmicks that the final act of Harry Potter seems to revel in. Would I expect the filmmakers (director Chris Columbus of

"Home Alone") behind Harry Potter not to utilize today's computer "wizardry?" Certainly not, but is it me, or does the last 45 minutes or so, seem to rely more on cool effects than characterization (what happened to Alan Rickman?).

The first hour and a half is absolutely extraordinary. Everything from the Dursleys to the arrival at Hogwarts is precisely what I pictured upon reading the book. For those of you newcomers to Pottermania, just take the smarts and dark core of Roald Dahl, throw in a mix of old-school sorcerer stylings along with some magic miracles and kaa-zam: the brilliant JK Rowling. She conceived Potter in a London coffee shop and somehow turned the series into a wild, overnight sensation here in the States. Honestly, when the latest and fourth installment was released, and people were lined up

die-hard readover fans will pick up on what's missing story wise (which isn't much at all). Young Harry Potter (played perfectly by Daniel Radcliffe) is mis-

roll after "From Hell") shows up to tell him he's actually a wizard and has a place at Hogwarts School of Wizardry. As if that weren't shock enough, Harry discovers he's a super-celebrity throughout the wizarding world.

Once he arrives at Hogwarts, we are immediately launched into his adventures, and I can only say one thing about the game of Quiddich—um, pod race, from "Phantom Menace." Not that I didn't enjoy it mind you, but it seemed that a little Lucas

Even the chess game is really just a series of dissolves!

So there within lies my disappointment, but yet, I still enjoyed a lot, too much. Okay, so the filmmakers did their best, and stayed true to the source material. The kids are there for the eye candy and the Young Indiana-Jones-like thrills and chills. I envy them for having such a fantastic feast to entertain, enlighten, and invigorate them. It's not to say that this film is bad by any means, but it most certainly could've been better. For what it is, it's a success, but walking in, I had hoped for a GREAT success. As for bringing out the kid in me, I'll stick with Pixar as well as the 90 minute rush of "Spy Kids" from earlier this year.

There's an ignition of magic, inspiration, hope, and good-old fashioned family fun within the text of JK Rowling's printed page. However on film, that eye-opening excitement feels minimal, and diminished to only a portion of the entire running time (which is a good portion, mind you. 1 hour and 30 minutes to be exact.) A lot of it definitely has to do with expectations, and with an astonishing debut as assured as Rowling's, it's natural that my expectations were heightened.

"Harry Potter And The Sorcerer's Stone" is nothing more than a good time supplied by a solid cast of terrific young actors (especially young Emma Watson), some neat sequences, and a lot of hearty laughs. But just imagine the possibilities for a minute. What if what you had originally envisioned when gazing upon Rowling's words had been put up on screen? Is this a perfect encapsulation? Can we honestly put Potter in the same league as the immortal "Willy Wonka?" Personally, I'd hope for a director like Terry Gilliam (of "Time Bandits") or Danny DeVito (who did the underrated "Matilda") to take Potter under his wing, but that's idealism for ya. As for the end result, which will no doubt be one of the highest grossing films ever; for what it is, and what the film will do for the young ones, I say "you go, boy."

Daniel Radcliff stars as the hero in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," the first of seven planned films.

blood found its way into Columbus' system. We learn more about Harry's rival as an infant with Lord Voldemort, and the "secrets" revealed behind the trap doors where the stone is kept safely hidden. Once the kids go on the quest, you can call it "Younger Sherlock Holmes," or "The Goonies" for the profanity-free crowd. But we're subjected to numerous effects sequences that seem to take something away from the film. And as an added disappointment, I must jump at the opportunity to say that my

imagination was suddenly put on a halt, unlike in the book where it was kept fresh and alive. But thanks to a slapdash pace, the film at a long, long, long, running time, never gets stale. However, once the true identity of Voldemort was revealed, I must say that his "presence" was uncreepy, and wished for more of an Alan Rickman demeanor than a ghostly ghoul. And the anti-climax involving the final confrontation is just not built up with enough suspense and excitement.

outside bookstores at midnight, I scoffed at them. Now, I've become one of them after actually putting aside my cynicism and immersed myself into its roller-coaster ride of creativity.

The plot stays true to the book, and what a relief. But despite some minor details, only

erable living under the stairs with his dumb uncle and unloving aunt. A miracle arrives in the form of a letter allowing Harry a way out of the boring wasteland, and gives Harry a much-needed sense of purpose. In Harry's case it's because Hagrid (the irreplaceable Robbie Coltrane, on a

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## Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

★★★★

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# Jackson's back, with a vengeance

Michael Jackson releases first disc in 4 years

TERRENCE ISBELL  
Entertainment Writer

Before I begin with my dissection of Michael Jackson's newest foray into the pop world labeled "Invincible", I make an oath to you now. I swear that this review will be completely devoid of any digs at the self-proclaimed King of Pop's expense for two reasons: Number one, there isn't anything I could possibly say about him that hasn't already been expressed by a hundred comedians in the comedy circuit. Number two, I consider it extremely bad karma to crack on people from your hometown area (though technically I'm from East Chicago and not Jacko's former abode of Gary.) Now that the pleasantries have been put aside, I feel I can be blunt and say that although Mike's newest disc showcases the sheer genius and talent that he possesses, it's honestly nothing you haven't heard from him before.

Jackson's strength has always lied in his unique vocal stylings and top-notch dancing abilities (read: moonwalking), and it definitely shows in the first track titled "Unbreakable", in which Jackson meshes lyrics retaliating against his arch nemeses, the tabloids, with a pretty decent beat. Biggie Smalls a.k.a. The Notorious B.I.G. makes a posthumous guest appearance halfway through the track, which will delight some, and probably freak out others who will be wondering how he got there. Another track, the now played to death "You Rock My World", is probably the best of the entire disk, as that is truly Michael as we all know him; the intro banter between him and Chris Tucker at the beginning set the stage for some classic MJ the likes of we have never seen since "Thriller" and "Bad". Anyone who has seen the accompanying video/mini-movie knows exactly what I mean. "Break of Dawn", a slow love ballad, is another example of the classic Jackson sound of the early to mid '80's. No catchy hooks, just pure, unadulterated Mike.

As I mentioned earlier, the ride through MJ's green pastures isn't all happy-go-lucky. Jackson has actually suffered what I like to call the "featuring curse". (Note to all artists: if you sing, no hip-hop guest stars, and if you rap, no R&B guest stars.... please!) Practically every song on the track has a good minute or two featuring a guest star who feels the need to sing or rap while Mike takes a break. I mean, with the exception



Michael Jackson's newest record, "Invincible," may be his demise or comeback.

of the B.I.G. track, there is absolutely no need for guest stars. If you're Michael Jackson, why do you need so many guest stars on your album? One song that particularly grates is the second track "Heartbreaker", with a ridiculous bubblegum-pop Britney Spears-ish sounding hook. I was expecting to hear Christina or Britney herself climb out of the woodwork to get a duet thing going with Mike, but fortunately for us, all we get is Jackson singing in a boy/girl band type way to a beat that could have been created on an old Casio. The track "2000 Watts" just made me want to toss the cd into my nearby ceiling fan. Again, there are guest stars, but Mike is nowhere to be found. He had no input on the track whatsoever, which wasn't all that good to begin with. Sadly, more than half of the album had me longing to hear "Smooth Criminal" again (I mean the real one, not the Alien Ant Farm bastard child version.)

There was one song that I couldn't say I liked or disliked, which is the final track called "The Lost Children". The title alone will make people grin or wince uncomfortably due for obvious ironies, and the fact that Jackson decided to give it the go ahead shows that he isn't about to let his public image dictate his career moves.

Though not every song on "Invincible" is a masterpiece, it's a decent look at the King of Pop at work, for those that aren't familiar with him and those that are, I believe it's safe to say that Jack's back, and only time will tell if his newest album title will be true to life for him.

Michael Jackson  
"Invincible"

★★★★

# Redford, Pitt reunite to play 'games'

JOE JUAREZ  
Entertainment Writer

For Nathan Muir, retirement could not have come at a worse time. With his final days working for the CIA, and a nice getaway to the Bahamas just around the corner, it looks like nothing can hold him back, except for one thing: a man's life hanging in a balance on the other side of the world.

In the explosively entertaining "Spy Game," Muir (played by Robert Redford) is in a life or death situation, as he races toward the clock to save his one-time CIA protégé, Tom Bishop who is accused of espionage and is being held in a Hong Kong prison waiting to be executed within twenty-four hours. Believing it is too great a risk, the much younger CIA headed by the young, self-righteous Charles Harker (Stephen Dillane) decide to wash their hands of the matter because of fears of an international incident between the United States and China.

The middle aged and old school, Muir, feels it is up to him to save his former partner from being put to death. He does this by anything necessary such as contacting connections in Hong Kong and England. He even attempts to fool his soon-to-be former employers by playing dumb to the sloppy CIA agents in suits, making them think he doesn't know anything.

In order to help out his connections and most importantly Bishop, Nathan must do the most important thing, outsmart his own people. In order to do that, he gives an in-depth description of his relationship with Tom. This would be provided with flashbacks that go back to the last months of the Vietnam War in the mid 1970's where Nathan hires Tom for a sting operation. Then Muir travels to the mid-1980's in Lebanon, where Tom meets Elizabeth Hadley (Catherine McCormik), a woman who becomes significant in Tom's life but in the process interferes in Tom and Nathan's working relationship and friendship. As a result, Tom and Nathan separate until the situation in Hong Kong, where Tom awaits his fate.

Ever since Redford directed Pitt in his breakthrough performance as Paul McClean in the 1992 classic, "A River Runs Through It," Redford not only helped Pitt find his niche as an actor behind the camera, but for this particular movie, it feels as if he's giving him more direction in front of the camera. There's a cool montage involving the training of Pitt as a rookie that clearly shows their good rap-



Brad Pitt (left) and Robert Redford star in Tony Scott's "Spy Games."

port both on and off-screen.

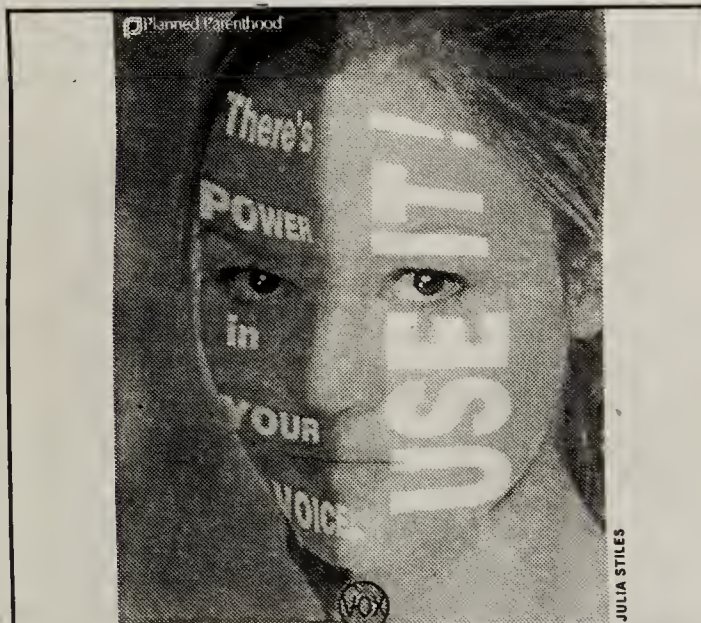
Despite the fact that I rarely see movies that star Redford, like the fictional baseball fairy-tale, "The Natural," and the most recent "The Last Castle," this was the first time that I had a chance to sit and watch a legend do what he does best on the screen, which is to be nonchalant throughout the film without once breaking out of character. As for Mr. Pitt, from his film debut as the stealing drifter in "Thelma and Louise" to the reluctant bagman, Jerry Welbach in "The Mexican," and who could never forget Pitt as the soap seller turned/ass kicker Tyler Durden in "Fight Club." "Spy Game" is another positive addition to his great resume.

Through it all, "Spy Game"

provided a bit of a profile on what everyday life is like in the CIA and did it with a fast pace and some tense action sequences. From the interrogation attempt involving a fellow worker, to the explosive scene involving a bomb inside a Beirut building, the film doesn't let up despite the redundant flashback structure. This movie is strongly recommended for the right person who wants to experience the spy lifestyle vicariously. But most importantly this movie makes you contemplate who's good; who's bad, and who can be trusted.

Spy Games

★★★★



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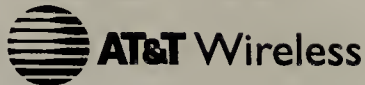
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## THE SPRANKLE CONFINES

Here we go again:  
Bears/Packers on Sunday



FRANK SPRANKLE  
Sports Editor

Once again, it's time to gather-up the pack and bear down, the hatches that is. The NFL's greatest rivalry resumes with first place implications of the NFC central on the line. In that case, both the Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers will play Sunday with more than the Illinois/Wisconsin borderline bragging rights at stake. Almost 150 miles separate these two historic NFL towns, which have gone head-to-head dating back almost 80 years.

Of course, both teams met November 11 at Soldier Field for Packer week. Coming in, the Bears only loss had come in Week 1 against Baltimore, but afterward, managed to win the next six, including the previous two with overtime dramatics. Still, no clutch magic would work on this afternoon, as the Pack came out with a 20-12 win, which forced a first place tie as both teams now featured identical 6-2 records. As a direct result, Brett Farve continued his undefeated mark at Soldier Field.

For the Bears, the quarterback situation might not be as talented or consisted as Farve, but with the likes of Jim Miller as the prime starter, and at times even Shane Matthews, the passing game has done a fine job behind rookie wide receiver David Terrell, and Marty Booker, especially with his three touchdown grabs against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers the week after losing to the Packers.

The following week, it was onto the loudest stadium possibly in the NFL, which in the case of the Minnesota Vikings, the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, in what became the Bears lone regular season national television appearance. In a Bear defense that has dominated all year round in this year's success, the Vikings streak of 97 games with scoring a touchdown came to an end, as the current "monsters of the midway," only allowed Minnesota to two field goals and nothing more in a 13-6 win, which moved the Bears record to an impressive 8-2 and the top notch in the NFC central.

## Sexson, Reash: Lafayette duo that goes way back

FRANK SPRANKLE  
Sports Editor

Ryan Sexson is just one of three returning seniors on the Lakers this season, while Tyler Reash entered as one of three freshman beginning his first year of collegiate basketball. The significance on these two players is in the fact that they grew up in the same neighborhood. Sexson and Reash have known each other for a long time, going back to the days of meeting on a school playground in Lafayette.

Over the years, they've kept their friendship in tact, both on and off the court. And while they might not have played at the same level at Lafayette Jefferson High School, where Reash took All-Conference honors last year, it's this one season that the chance has come.

"Playing with Ryan means a lot, I did not get a chance to play with him in high school, because he was on the varsity team, but now it's great," Reash said, who enters his first season with the Lakers as a 5'10 guard.

"Ryan has been a good leader on this team, we have been through good times and bad times, but he has got us going."

Sexson has become a factor in help guiding this Lakers team, after averaging 15 points per game and shooting 46 percent from three-point range. But the other senior leadership of Dion Banks and Drew Hall has become equally important as well.

"Our leadership has been a vital aspect of this team's success, we have our core players playing hard, and it is the duty of us as seniors to be coaches on the court in helping the younger players, we have had a positive influence on them," Sexson said about his fellow two co-captains.

With Sexson and Reash playing side-by-side this year, they continue to have priorities in a progressing season.

"Tyler has had good minutes for us so far, over the summer he took part in our open gym session as he was looking at a number of colleges to play at, but we're glad he's here. Ryan's defensive intensity has gotten better and he has let his game come to him, he still works hard," Head Coach Gary Hayes said.

And while Sexson completes his final season of college ball, Reash looks ahead to his future years remaining.

"I would like to become a strong point guard and a leader on the court, someone that the

team could turn to," Reash said.

"Right now I'm pleased with the way we have gelled together and have come to work everyday, we have good chemistry."

And as Reash begins his tenure in the collegiate ranks, Sexson has described playing with his childhood friend and current teammate, very special, even similar to a relationship between two brothers.

"It has been nice to have a close friend on the team, I have seen some traits of myself in Tyler, but it's just a matter of what he wants to do," Sexson said.

"He is capable of playing in the system, and with me and Dion (Banks) leaving after the season, there should be room for another starting guard as he could get more playing time, so the sky is the limit for him."



Photo by Skye Holman

Ryan Sexson (left) and Tyler Reash have been neighbors all of their lives now they are on the same college team.

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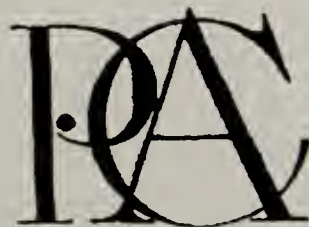
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# Hiking simulator becomes an expansion to TFC

**FRANK SPRANKLE**  
Sports Editor

Most recently, PUC's Total Fitness Center (TFC) welcomed a new addition to its ever-changing facility. One new piece of equipment that began operation about four weeks ago, hopes to bring further exercising options in the form of the new hiking simulator.

The simulator features an experience that could be described as close to an actual hiking journey, even at mountain range. Designed by Nordic Track, which has come out with a number of unique exercise

systems over the last 25 years, this new advancement comes with an incline reaching heights of 50 degrees. In all, the usage is targeted toward a narrow group for anyone in search of an alternative.

"Normally, I do the flat fitness machines, but I decided to try the simulator, because it's something different and will be an impact on my calves," PUC sophomore and TFC member Dick Pieszchale (engineering major) said, as he was taking advantage of the hiking simulator for the first time.

It was a year ago, during a club industries show at

McCormick Place that the hiking simulator caught the eye of TFC personal. Also at this venue, another major advancement in exercise equipment received attention, when a machine called the treadwall was discovered.

Since its installation a couple of months ago, the treadwall has become a popular item around the TFC. Many of the members involved have found usage for the wall in a competition known as "Climbing Mt. McKinley."

While the hiking simulator might not target as many users as would the treadwall, both addi-

tions have been pleasing to those in total fitness.

"It's nice to see additions to the center, it's also nice to see the university stay committed to physical fitness and even stay in competition with other local exercise facilities," senior Nick Kalwinski said.

Kalwinski, a radio/television major, in addition to his TFC membership went on to say that the hiking simulator was great because of the incline, and describes all that use it, as being intimidated.

With the new simulator in full usage, the TFC plans to

continue the growth within this exercise facility that consist of a full aerobic center and two weight rooms.

"We would like to upgrade our equipment as it becomes more modern and we want to expand as well," TFC coordinator John Bobalik said, who has overseen the center since coming to PUC in 1986.

"The use of the hiking simulator is increasing, it might be as big an item as the climbing wall, but it will expand."

For more information on TFC call (219) 989-2175.

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